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IN THE UNITED STA ATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

3700 MAIL RO

Appn. Number: 08/580,493 Appn. Filed:

1995 Dec 29

Philippe Berna Applicant:

Appn. Title: PROCESS FOR MAKING A VERSATILE CLAMPING DEVICE DESIGNED TO HOLD OBJECTS WITHOUT DAMAGING THEM, SUCH A

DEVICE AND ITS USE.

Examiner/GAU: David Bryant/3726

Molières-sur-Cèze, France, 2000, May 11, Thu

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box FWC Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, District of Columbia 20231

Sir:

Prior any action in the above continuation application and in response to the Office Action mailed 2000, January 14, please amend as follows:

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please substitute new drawing sheets 1 and 2 for the corresponding sheets on file.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please rewrite claims 3-18 in amended form:

3. (Six Times Amended) The device of claim 2 wherein [in which] said [substantially] elastic buffer includes [comprises] a ring portion at an end of said buffer opposite said contact face, and said buffer [which is covering part of said arm to which it] is secured to said at least one arm by inserting said at least one arm into said ring portion such that said ring portion encircles said at least one arm.

n 2

 n^1

4. (Seven Times Amended) The [A] device according to claim 2 further comprising [wherein to said two arms are added] two additional [other] movable arms, each additional arm having a transverse hole therethrough, and said arms being mounted on the support part with the support part being disposed within the transverse holes of the additional arms, and wherein the two first arms and the two additional arms along the support part are each provided with a respective said [substantially] elastic [buffers] buffer, and wherein the [which are both turned by their] contact face of the elastic buffer of each of the two first arms face towards a first [the same] direction, and the contact face of the elastic buffer of each of the two additional [other] arms face [being provided with substantially elastic buffers which are both turned by their contact face] towards a second direction opposite the first [other] direction.

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